



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
Executive Office for Immigration Review  
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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Immigration Judge Takes Oath of Office In Hartford, Connecticut**

HARTFORD, CONN. – Paul M. Gagnon was sworn in today as an Immigration Judge during an investiture ceremony at 3:00 p.m., in the Hartford Immigration Court, 450 Main Street, Room 509, Hartford Connecticut. Chief Immigration Judge Michael J. Creppy, from the Executive Office for Immigration Review in Falls Church, Virginia, administered the oath of office.

Judge Gagnon joins the ranks of more than 200 Immigration Judges located in 51 Immigration Courts throughout the nation. They are responsible for conducting formal administrative proceedings to determine whether foreign-born individuals who are charged with violations of federal immigration law should be removed from the United States or may be granted relief from removal. Immigration judges decide each case independently and their decisions are final unless appealed or certified to the Board of Immigration Appeals. In the past year, immigration judges completed more than 250,000 such proceedings. They are also authorized to administer oaths of citizenship to candidates for naturalization.

Judge Gagnon was appointed immigration judge in February 2002. He received his undergraduate degree in 1971 from the University of New Hampshire, and his Juris Doctorate in 1977 from Suffolk University School of Law. From June 2001 to February 2002, Judge Gagnon was a research associate with the Institute for Security Technology Studies at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH. He served as U.S. Attorney for the District of New Hampshire from December 1993 to May 2001. Judge Gagnon was in private practice from 1987 to 1993; served as Hillsborough County Attorney from 1983 to 1986; was an associate in the law firm of Malloy and Sullivan from 1980 to 1982; and served as assistant Hillsborough County Attorney from 1977 to 1979, all in Manchester, NH. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1971 to 1974 and the New Hampshire Air National Guard from 1975 to 1992. Judge Gagnon is a member of the New Hampshire Bar.

The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) – a Department of Justice agency that is independent from the INS – is responsible for providing due process to individuals who are charged with immigration law violations or seek relief from immigration-related penalties imposed against them.

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